



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ARIZONA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES STATE OFFICE
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March 25, 1994

Colonel Robert L. VanAntwerp, Jr.
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
Attn. Environmental Resources Branch
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

Dear Colonel Van Antwerp:

DATE	3/29	
ACTION (w/)	CORRECTION	
RA	✓	RA
DRA	✓	DRA
ATD		ATD
✓ HWMD		HWMD
✓ WMD		WMD
OPM		OPM
CEA		CEA
GRG		GRG

This Planning Aid letter is provided in fulfillment of our agreement to provide planning assistance on the Tri-City Landfill Reconnaissance Study. It has been prepared under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). This letter has been coordinated with representatives of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Problem Identification. - The existing Tri-City Landfill is located on the north bank of the Salt River between Center Street and Horne Road on the Salt River Indian Reservation, Maricopa County, Arizona. The landfill is located on an outside bend of the river, and during major flood events floodflows against the landfill embankment pose a severe potential for erosion and scour. On January 7, 1993, a major storm system entered Arizona causing significant runoff from the Salt and Verde watershed resulting in major releases of water from upstream dams. Flows of up to 125,000 cfs in the Salt River eroded and exposed approximately a 500 foot long section of debris at the landfill. The debris was carried downstream and deposited along the river for several miles.

2. Project Plans. - All construction plans under study involve bank stabilization at the landfill. Current plans call for construction of a soil cement levee along the landfill embankment to the elevation of the 100-year flow, plus a freeboard of three feet. The levee would be approximately one mile in length. Alternatives include evaluation of other construction materials (e.g., grouted stone, etc.).

EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The project area is highly disturbed and contains very little vegetation. Terrestrial plant communities consist of scattered small salt cedars and a few shrubs and annuals. The project area provides very limited use by birds, small mammals, and reptiles. There is no open water in the river except

during releases from major storm events within the watershed. The river channel is used for access roads to sand and gravel operations in the floodplain. No aquatic species of fish or wildlife are found in the project area. Conditions in the project area are not expected to change without the project. Landfill and sand and gravel operations are anticipated to continue at their present rate of operation. Flood protection to the landfill by stabilization of the south embankment is presently underway. A soil cement embankment in the same area proposed by this study is being constructed by the Salt River Maricopa Indian Community. This work could negate the need for the proposed project.

ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES

There are no threatened or endangered species in the project area.

IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Construction of the proposed project will not result in any significant impact on fish and wildlife resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Because the proposed project will not result in any significant impact on fish and wildlife resources, we have no recommendations for avoidance, mitigation, or compensation.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ron McKinstry or Don Metz.

Sincerely,



Sam F. Spiller
State Supervisor

cc:Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
(AES)

President, Salt River Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale, Arizona

Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region,

Boulder City, Nevada (ATTN: LC-150 and LC-200)

Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Projects Office,

Yuma, Arizona

State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office,

Phoenix, Arizona

Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX,

San Francisco, California

Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona

Regional Supervisor, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix,

Arizona